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GOVERNOR BARBOUR ANNOUNCES TOYOTA SUPPLIER TO LOCATE IN BALDWYN

A \$200 million investment, facility to create 400 new jobs

(TUPELO, Mississippi) – Governor Haley Barbour announced today that Toyota Auto Body Co., Ltd. (TAB) will build its newest manufacturing facility – the company's first in the U.S. – in the North Mississippi city of Baldwyn.

TAB, which in July became the first announced supplier to the auto manufacturing plant Toyota is building in Blue Springs, will operate its facility under the name Auto Parts Manufacturing Mississippi, Inc. It will provide stamped parts, body weld parts and plastic parts to the Toyota plant. The \$200 million plant is expected to open in 2010, employing 400 people.

"Toyota Auto Body's decision to locate its first U.S. facility in Baldwyn is a testament to our workforce and our proven economic development strategy of encouraging cooperation between state, regional, and private entities," Governor Barbour said. "We look forward to a long, fruitful relationship with our newest corporate citizen and share the excitement generated by the creation of 400 new jobs that will enhance the economy of North Mississippi and the state as a whole."

In February, Toyota announced that it would invest \$1.3 billion in its eighth North American manufacturing facility in Blue Springs. 2,000 direct jobs will be created once the plant is operational and another 4,900 spin-off, or indirect jobs are expected to be created within five years of the plant's opening.

Auto Parts Manufacturing Mississippi, Inc., will begin production to coincide with the start-up of Toyota's new Highlander SUV plant.

"I am very pleased this outstanding company will find a new home in North Mississippi as a major supplier to Toyota's newest auto assembly plant," Governor Haley Barbour said.

TAB, based in Kariya-city, Japan, is 56.03 percent owned by Toyota Motor Corporation and is part of the Toyota Group of Companies. TAB manufactures auto and special vehicle bodies and parts and has nearly 13,500 employees globally. TAB assembles various vehicles for Toyota, including the Prius, Land Cruiser and Lexus LX470.

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